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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/647,960

08/26/2003

Henry Frank Gasbarro

NG(MS)-6621

5237

7590

01/04/2005

Christopher P. Harris  
1111 Leader Building  
526 Superior Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44114

EXAMINER

DUONG, HUNG V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/647,960

Applicant(s)

GASBARRO ET AL.

Examiner

Hung v Duong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 25-30 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 14-16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 31-33 and 38-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10-13, 17, 20-22 and 34-37 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

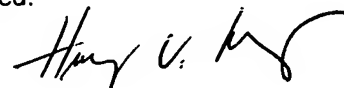
**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152...

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/26/03.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

**HUNG VAN DUONG**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 5-9, 15-16, 18-19, 23-24, 31-33, 38-40, and 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Helot (US Pat. 6,231,371).

Regarding claims 1, 5-9, 15-16, 18-19, 23-24, 31-33, 38-40, and 42-43 Helot discloses a system comprising: a computer having at least one power input connection and at least one I/O connection grouped into a first port 21; a docking station having at least one power output connection and at least one I/O connection grouped into a second port 32; and a cable 40 having a first end connectable with the first port 21 and a second end connectable with the second port 32, the cable 40 providing an interconnection between the at least one power output connection of the docking station and the at least one power input connection of the computer, the cable 40 providing interconnection between the at least one I/O connection of the computer and the at least one I/O connection of the docking station, the computer comprising a first power supply and the docking station comprising a second power supply, the second power supply providing electrical power to the first power supply through the cable; the power

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output connections and I/O connections of the docking station comprising conductors having first ends grouped together at the second port, the conductors having opposite second ends terminated with electrical connectors; the electrical connectors grouping the second ends of the conductors of the docking station I/O connections to correspond with the I/O connections of the computer; at least one module mountable in the docking station, the docking station comprising at least one I/O port connectable with I/O connections of the at least one module to provide communication between the at least one module and at least one device external to the docking station.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 5-9, 15-16, 18-19, 23-24, 31-33, 38-40, and 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yin et al (US Pat. 6,683,786).

Regarding claims 1, 5-9, 15-16, 18-19, 23-24, 31-33, 38-40, and 42-43 Yin et al disclose a system comprising: a computer having at least one power input connection and at least one I/O connection grouped into a first port 31; a docking station having at least one power output connection and at least one I/O connection grouped into a second port 32; and a cable 54 having a first end connectable with the first port 31 and a second end connectable with the second port 32, the cable 54 providing an interconnection between the at least one power output connection of the docking station and the at least one power input connection of the computer, the cable 54 providing interconnection between the at least one I/O connection of the computer and the at

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least one I/O connection of the docking station, the computer comprising a first power supply and the docking station comprising a second power supply, the second power supply providing electrical power to the first power supply through the cable; the power output connections and I/O connections of the docking station comprising conductors having first ends grouped together at the second port, the conductors having opposite second ends terminated with electrical connectors; the electrical connectors grouping the second ends of the conductors of the docking station I/O connections to correspond with the I/O connections of the computer; at least one module mountable in the docking station, the docking station comprising at least one I/O port connectable with I/O connections of the at least one module to provide communication between the at least one module and at least one device external to the docking station.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-4, 14, 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Helot (US Pat. 6,231,371) in view of Helot et al (US Pat. 6,331,934).

Regarding claims 2-4, 14, 41 Helot discloses all the subject matter of the claimed invention except for one I/O connections comprising at least one of communication I/O

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and video connections, COM port communications. However Helot et al disclose several types of connectors (see Helot et al's column 5, lines 44-47). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify a port communications of Helot et al into Helot's I/O connections in order to provide easy and appropriate connection design signal.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 10-13, 17, 20-22, 34-37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art fails to show that at least one module comprises a plurality of modules that form a module stack mountable in the docking station, the modules in the module stack being interconnected to form a communication bus for providing communications between the modules or that each of the groups of second ends being terminated with an electrical connector, the I/O ports of the docking station each being terminated with electrical connectors, the electrical connectors of the groups of second ends being connectable with the electrical connectors of the I/O ports to provide connections between the docking station conductors and the I/O ports.

Claims 25-30 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art fails to show that at least one module comprises a plurality of modules that form a module stack mountable in the docking station, the modules in the module stack being interconnected to form a communication bus for providing communications between the modules.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yoshida et al (US Pat. 6,366,458) teach docking unit for portable electronic device.

Yin et al (US Pat. 6,765,792) teach multi-position computing device docking station.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-2041. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:30 to 5:00PM.

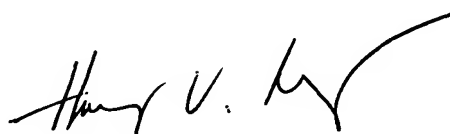
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D. Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2092. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956

HVD

12/23/04

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hung V. Duong", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Hung Duong  
Primary Examiner